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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY USSR (Baltic)

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Shore of Latvia and Lithuania

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REFERENCES

Watchtowers

1. The Latvian coast in the straits of Irbe was observed from a position at N 57-39, E 22-09; all along the coast a row of small watchtowers were seen, each approximately seven to ten meters high. These watchtowers were located along the shore, in front of the forest.
2. Observations, made from the sea, of the shore between Akmenrags Lighthouse (approximately N 56-52, E 21-03) and Lepaya (N 56-32, E 21-03) showed that there were watchtowers, similar to the ones described above, located at close distances from each other along that coast.
3. A wooden watchtower, approximately 20 meters high, was located in Lepaya at the seaward end of the south mole, at approximately N 56-31.5, E 20-59.3. The tower was manned by border guards.
4. There were several small watchtowers, each between seven to ten meters high, between Lepaya and Perkone (N 56-28, E 21-05).
5. The next known watchtower was in position N 56-18.3, E 20-59.1, which is 24.2 kilometers south of the south mole in Lepaya.
6. A number of small wooden watchtowers, each approximately seven to ten meters high, were located along the coast between N 56-16.5 and N 56-12.
7. In Papesciems (N 56-18, E 20-59), there was a wooden watchtower, 20 to 25 meters high, manned by border guards. This tower was located at a point approximately 750 meters from Pape Lighthouse, at a bearing 027°. This watchtower was located in the yard of a farm, on which the border guards were billeted.

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8. Pape Lighthouse (N 56-14, E 21-03) was used by seamen of the Soviet Navy as an observation tower; a constant lookout was observed. Many Latvian and Lithuanian youths, doing their national service, serve in the Soviet Navy.
9. The next known watchtower was in position N 56-08, E 21-02.3.
10. The watchtower at Nidasciems, which was approximately 25 meters high, was located at N 56-05.7, E 21-03.3.
11. The watchtower at Svetoji, which was manned by local border guards, was approximately 30 meters high. It was located at N 56-01.4, E 21-04.9.
12. The Soviets were constantly building new watchtowers along the coast, but they seemed to concentrate on small towers, seven to ten meters high, placed at short intervals all along the shore.

Searchlights

13. A searchlight was located at the center entrance of the Lepaya mole; this searchlight illuminates the fishing boats entering Lepaya during the night.
14. A searchlight was located a few kilometers north of Pape Lighthouse; its exact position is unknown. This searchlight was manned by sailors of the Soviet Navy. These sailors belong to the same unit which was stationed at Pape Lighthouse.
15. A searchlight, operating at irregular intervals during the night, was observed from seawards in the Svetoji area. Its exact position is unknown.

Radar Installations

16. Since World War II, trucks with radar aerials have been parked about five kilometers south of the southern mole in Lepaya harbor; they were located at N 56-28.5, E 21-00.2. There were usually five or ten trucks parked in the area at one time, most of them with radar aerials as shown in Sketch No. 1 and Sketch No. 2 on page 4. On several occasions, radar screens, as shown in Sketch No. 3, were observed on these trucks. On one occasion, in the early morning hours, a truck with a radar screen, as shown in Sketch No. 4, was observed parked on the outskirts of Lepaya. These radar trucks were changed from time to time, but they were moved during the night, and observation was impossible except by chance.
17. Since the autumn of 1951 or the spring of 1952, a conspicuous tower, believed to be a radar installation, has been observed in the approximate position N 56-26, E 20-59.8. The tower, which was estimated to be between 15 and 20 meters high, was approximately 9.8 kilometers south of the southern mole of Lepaya. From a distance, this tower appeared to be a dark color; for a sketch of the tower, see Sketch No. 5 on page 4.

Border Guards

18. Border guards were known to have been stationed in Papesciems, south of Lepaya. They were billeted on a farm, which was located about 750 meters, at a bearing 027°, from the lighthouse at Pape. It was believed that there were close to 200 men stationed there. Presumably, they were stationed there because of some construction work, said to be defenses, north of the lighthouse at Pape.
19. The border guards at Papesciems have no patrol vessel, because the harbor at Pape has only one-half to one meter of water; the small fishing boats are hauled ashore by horses.

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20. There were no border guards stationed in Nidasciems. The border guards stationed at Sventoji did militia work, as there was no militia stationed there. These guards patrol the shore from Sventoji towards Pape, while the guards from Papesciems patrol the shore towards Sventoji. Border guards are generally in evidence at night along the Lepaya - Bernati - Rucava - Sventoji road.

Fishing Restrictions

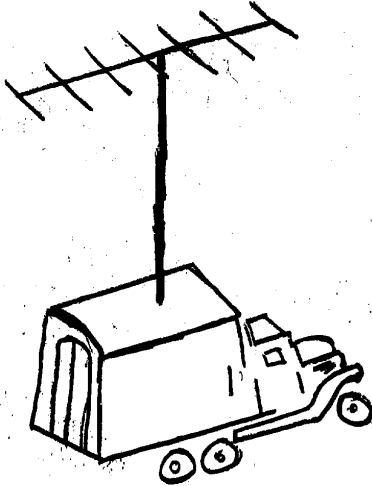
21. South of Lepaya, fishing is carried on from the following places, where fishing artels are located:
- a. A place on the coast at approximately N 56-18.5.
 - b. At Papesciems, small, motor, sail, and row boats are used. Fishermen were permitted to sail from Pape by day or night.
 - c. At Sventoji, where there were about 15 or 20 small, motor, fishing boats. Fishing hours from Sventoji varied considerably; sometimes permission was granted to fish during the night, while at other times fishing was allowed during certain hours of daylight. Upon occasion, permission was granted for a ship to stay out all night, but the general rule permitted fishing during daylight only.
22. There were no other fishing artels between Papesciems and Sventoji.
23. On the southern outskirts of Lepaya, immediately beyond the Lepaya hospital (N 59-29.5, E 21-00.1) there was a notice prohibiting approach to the shore. It was forbidden to walk along the shore anywhere south of the hospital. At points where there are fishing artels, fences are built around the boats, and a special approach to the boat area set off for the fishermen. Every other part of the shore was restricted.
24. Last year, a fishing boat approached very close to the coast south of Lepaya on three different occasions. The captain of the fishing boat was not questioned afterwards, even though fishing boats were prohibited from coming too close inshore.

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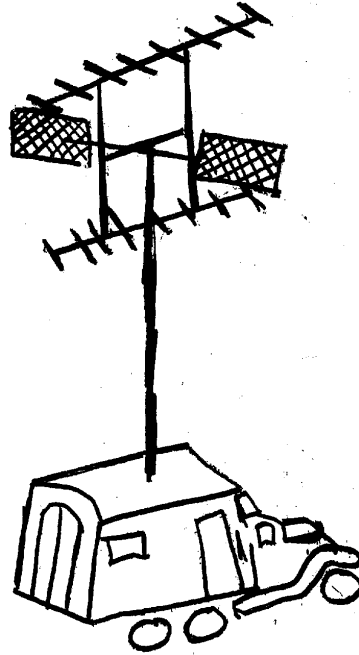
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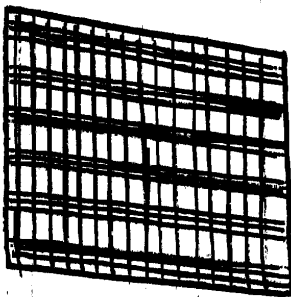
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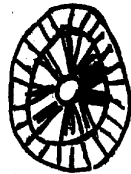
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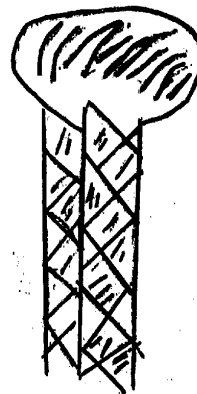
Sketch No. 3:



Sketch No. 4:



Sketch No. 5:



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